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RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1909.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—FAIR.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## BROODING QUIET FOREBODS STORM

Mysterious Conference  
Is Held at State  
Department.

## FOES OF ZELAYA ARE ENCOURAGED

Fears Felt for Americans in Nicaragua Should Attempt at Retaliation Be Made—Thousand People Said to Have Been Thrown Into Prison.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 19.—Brooding quiet settled down to-day on the strained situation in Nicaragua. But if everything was quiet on the surface there was plenty stirring beneath. A communication was received at the State Department from the Nicaraguan legation, the purport of which was not divulged, and the ministers from Guatemala and Costa Rica held a mysterious conference with Assistant Secretary Wilson in the afternoon.

A significant development of the day, inasmuch as it disclosed this government's unyielding determination not to interfere with the Nicaraguan revolutionists, was the reiterated announcement that the State Department would not act to insure the safety of any American vessels that might be held up or seized by the insurgent war vessels now blockading the government forces at Greytown or elsewhere on the Guatemalan coast.

The deepest interest is apparent as to the conference between Assistant Secretary Wilson, Senor Calvo, minister from Costa Rica, and Dr. Herrero, minister from Guatemala. It is believed that the infraction of the existing Pan-American treaty signed here a little over two years ago was the chief matter discussed.

The violation of the agreement was committed by General Toledo, in command of President Zelaya's forces, with which he invaded Costa Rican territory in his advance on Greytown, where he is now practically besieged. In the threatened trouble between Nicaragua and Venezuela, only a short time ago, the United States stood ready to prevent, by force if necessary, the passage of the belligerents across the neutral territory of Honduras. This is pointed to by diplomats to-night as indicative of the gravity of General Toledo's offense against the Pan-American compact.

For Decisive Struggle. That the revolutionists under General Chamorro are making preparations for the final decisive struggle within the next three or four days was announced to-night by Senor Salvador Castillo, representative here of the Nicaraguan provisional government.

Senor Castillo pointed out that with the coast line in possession of his compatriots, the securing of ammunition and arms now is a simple matter of only a few days. In the meantime, he says, General Chamorro holds the Zelayan forces at his mercy.

At the time of the closing of the State Department this afternoon no word, according to Secretary Knox, had been received from the coast of the two warships, the Des Moines and the Vicksburg, which, respectively, were ordered to take up their stations on the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the isthmus, are believed to have reached their destinations, although no word from their commanders was received.

The department was informed to-day that Leonard Grace, who is believed to have been executed with Leroy Cannon by order of President Zelaya, was a native of Hampton, Va., where his family is said now to reside.

Fear for Other Americans. In view of the strained relations between the United States and Nicaraguan governments and the arbitrary methods pursued by President Zelaya in his efforts to suppress the Estrada revolutionary party, there is considerable anxiety here as to the safety of the colony of Americans in Nicaragua, including the official representatives of the United States.

It so happens that three prominent officials of this government are absent from their posts at this time. These are United States Minister Horace G. Knowles, Jose de Olivares, consul at Managua, and James W. Johnson, consul at Corinto. They are in this country on leave of absence.

Mr. Knowles and Mr. Olivares were the ranking officials of this government at Managua, at the Nicaraguan capital. In their absence, the diplomatic affairs of the United States in the present crisis are in charge of Henry Caldera, vice-consul at Managua. Caldera is a native of Nicaragua and a naturalized citizen of the United States. He was appointed to his present office from Louisiana in September, 1907, and has proved an efficient officer. Despite his Nicaraguan nationality it is declared that he is eminently loyal to his adopted country.

Other representatives of the United States in Nicaragua are Thomas J. Moffat, consul at Bluefields; Michael J. Clancy, vice-consul at Bluefields; Edwin W. Trimmer, consul at Cape Gracias a Dios, and William H. Seat, vice-consul at same place; Henry W. Leonard, vice-consul at Corinto; W. H. de Salvigny, agent at Managua, and Charles Holmann, agent at San Juan del Sur.

Zelaya May Hit Back Hard. In case of the actual severance of diplomatic and consular relations with the Nicaraguan government, these officials will be given their passports and compelled to return to the United States.

It is not known how President Zelaya will receive the news of President Taft's refusal to receive his diplomatic representatives and the recognition of the belligerency of the Estrada revolutionary party.

In view of his high-handed methods it will not be surprising if he endeavors to retaliate in this respect by can-

## MANY HEADS FALL IN CUSTOM-HOUSE

More Than One Hundred  
Dismissals Have Been  
Announced.

## BIGGEST SHAKE-UP SERVICE HAS HAD

James Vail Loses Position, and Declares That He Is Being Used as Scapegoat—Loeb Says His House Cleaning Is Not Finished.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 19.—The elimination from the customs service of Acting Deputy Surveyor James N. Vail, the abolition of that office in the New York custom-house, the dismissal of 104 men and demotion of 123 other men at New York from March 4 up to last night, together with about a score of other changes included in Collector Loeb's statement to-day from New York, were announced by Secretary MacVeagh to-night.

There will be no further grants of immunity in the customs investigation at New York, Secretary MacVeagh made it clear, explaining that he received this assurance in a recent conference in New York with Collector Loeb and others. Collector Loeb, the secretary said, assured him there would be no further occasion for it, that they had accomplished what was needed by the immunity previously promised.

The three weighers who confessed to the authorities, and whose evidence has figured so largely in the investigation, have not been disturbed in this service, and they will remain so far as the government is concerned. But Mr. MacVeagh pointed out that it was questionable whether they would care to continue in the limelight very long.

Mr. Vail, who drew a salary of \$2,000 a year as acting deputy surveyor at New York, was until quite recently foreman of weighers at that port. He passes out of the government service with the discontinuance of the office.

Secretary MacVeagh said there were no charges against Vail, and indicated that the fact that he had been the head of the weighers while the sugar frauds were in progress was at least largely responsible for his dismissal.

The object of to-night's announcement, according to Secretary MacVeagh, was to show the gradual rehabilitation of the service.

End Not in Sight. Nor is the end yet in sight, and the shake-up will keep right on until the rehabilitation is complete.

Many of those affected by the changes covered in to-day's statement appealed to the President after getting notice of their dismissals or demotions. In the meantime, he says, General Chamorro holds the Zelayan forces at his mercy.

The changes by months have been grouped as follows:

Luring March six demotions, six dismissals; April, one demotion, three dismissals; May, thirty-three dismissals; no demotions; June, seventy-seven demotions, five dismissals; July, twenty-nine demotions, six dismissals; August, three demotions, nine dismissals; September, five demotions, six dismissals; October, one demotion, two dismissals; November, up to the 19th, one demotion, seven dismissals.

All of the vacancies, said Secretary MacVeagh, have been filled.

No names, except that of Vail, were given in to-day's statement.

Vail Indignant. NEW YORK, November 19.—"We are in the midst of the greatest shake-up in the history of the United States Customs Department," said William Loeb, Jr., collector of the port of New York to-night when shown Secretary MacVeagh's summary of the work thus far accomplished in cleaning up the New York custom-house.

"More employees have been dismissed from the New York office since I took charge than during the entire previous history of the service," he continued, "and we are not through yet. We are going to keep at it until the New York custom-house is made thoroughly respectable."

Secretary MacVeagh's statement in Washington shows what we had accomplished up to to-day. Add to that the nineteen employees dismissed to-day and you will see that we have gone pretty thoroughly into the matter. I am continuing my investigation, and I can say that there are more heads to be lopped off soon."

Mr. Loeb's house-cleaning went into his last night. Among those dismissed this afternoon were James N. Vail, deputy surveyor of this, the biggest custom-house in the country; George E. Breda, acting collector; and Henry Caldera, the weighing division; James P. Hyland, and Joseph O'Carroll, ex-foreman of weighing districts.

Mr. Vail expressed great indignation at his removal, "I have been made the scapegoat," he said. "Not only have I been absolutely faithful to the government for the twenty-two years I have been in the service, but it is a known fact that while I was at the head of the weighing department I ferreted out the original frauds."

Another Football Victim. ORANGE, N. J., November 19.—With his neck broken in much the same way as that of C. B. Burne, of West Point, Albert P. Wilbur, seventeen years old, died to-night in the Orange Memorial Hospital, another victim of the football. He had been tackled in open field while running with the ball, and thrown head first.

Washington Suggests Route to California. Tourist sleeping car four times weekly, without change. Personally conducted. Berth, \$9.50. 920 East Main Street.

## TAFT DECLARES FOR REAL IMPROVEMENT, NOT MERE DISTRIBUTION OF PATRONAGE

Asks Waterways Convention to Be Practical in Demands.

## F A V O R S BIG FORT IN HAMPTON ROADS

President Spends Day as Guest of Virginia at Norfolk—Notable Men of This and Other States Are Present at Reception.

NORFOLK, VA., November 19.—As one of the concluding features of the convention of the Atlantic Deep Waterways Association, and to accept again the hospitality of the people of the Old Dominion, President Taft came to Norfolk to-day, reviewed a military and naval parade, made two speeches in which he espoused his interest in a practical system of waterway improvement to be carried forward in a business-like way, and not merely as a means of distributing patronage, partook of a Lynnhaven oyster roast under the shadows of the towering Cape Henry light-house, and attended a smoker in honor of a large corps of visiting newspaper men.

The President retired to-night on board the naval yacht Mayflower, on which he made the journey from Washington to Norfolk. The Mayflower will remain at anchor in the Norfolk harbor until to-morrow morning, when she will get under way for Hampton, where the President will attend in the forenoon a meeting of the board of trustees of the Hampton Normal Institute, of which he is a member. In the afternoon he will address to the colored students of the institute, and then sail for Washington.

Mrs. Taft Unrecognized. Mrs. Taft accompanied the President to Norfolk to-day, and while he was reviewing the big parade in his honor and later was making an open-air address from the reviewing stand, Mrs. Taft and her sister, Mrs. Thomas K. Laughlin, Jr., of Pittsburgh, came ashore to see the President.

They visited among other places famous old St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which still shows the wounds of the Revolutionary War. The mistress of the White House and her sister were quite unrecognized in all the excitement of the crush to see and hear the President. Mr. Taft was the dinner guest of Fergus Reid, of this city, and a company of Norfolk people.

The President's visit was made the occasion of probably the most notable celebration the city has ever had. At no time during the Jamestown Exposition did Norfolk seem to be aroused to the same pitch of enthusiasm as to-day, and never before have the United States Navy and the United States Army approached the display which greeted Mr. Taft when he stepped ashore shortly after 9 o'clock this morning. A reception to the Norfolk committee and the delegates to the Waterways Convention began at 10 o'clock, and then followed the parade and speech by the President from a reviewing stand erected at the base of the Confederate monument.

In his speech there the President, after alluding to the waterways improvement, spoke a word for the United States Navy, declaring that the prestige of the nation demands that the navy be kept to a high standard of force and efficiency. The President declared that he was in favor of fortifying Hampton, the greatest strategic naval base in the world, by erecting an impenetrable fort on an island placed half-way between the Virginia capes. He said he had recommended such a fortification as Secretary of War, and hoped to see the plan adopted during his term as President.

Felt Like an Oyster. The President was taken by special train to Cape Henry for the old-fashioned oyster roast. The oysters were served so temptingly and with such lavish hand that when the President arose to speak he declared he felt like an oyster.

The waterways delegates, having practically completed the business of the convention on yesterday, gave the day over to participating in the welcome to the President.

In his speech at Cape Henry the President dwelt again upon the necessity of taking up waterways improvement on a basis of sound business sense rather than on deals and oratory. Mr. Taft also told a story on Speaker Cannon of how he said he did not see the use of inland waterways "when it was only a biscuit throw over into the ocean."

"But," declared the President, "that is because he comes from Illinois. If he had to go around Cape Hatteras a few times he would understand the difference in a biscuit throw."

In order to make himself heard at the oyster roast, the President stood on a chair. Next to him sat Andrew Carnegie, who joined the presidential party this morning.

"I feel like an oyster," began Mr. Taft. "I ought to be as dumb as one, but when you get on the soil of Old Virginia there is something about it that makes you feel like talking, and so I have accepted the invitation to make a few brief remarks."

"I am glad to be here by the ocean side. I am glad to taste the best oysters with the best flavor that I have ever tasted before. I am glad to be here where, in spite of the views of my distinguished neighbor, Brother Carnegie, we ought to put a formidable fortress, right here. Both Brother Carnegie and I are working toward the same end, and we believe in peace, but I am not quite so near the millennium as he is, but we are working in the same direction and with the same principles, and we don't differ so much."

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## LEADERS IN WATERWAYS CONVENTION

Remains of Mine Victims Are Removed From Their Fiery Tomb.

## ONLY A START IS MADE NO WATER WITHIN REACH

Many Charred Corpses Seen by Explorers in the Second Gallery.

CHERRY, ILL., November 19.—With the fire in the St. Paul mine greatly checked and five of the 300 bodies of men who were killed by last Saturday's fire recovered, it is hoped that much progress towards clearing the mine will be made to-morrow. Charley has poured aid into the recovery of only five bodies, but the progress towards clearing the mine will be made to-morrow.

Absolutely helpless as far as any water supply was concerned, the workmen used their hands and heels in digging away the burning beams, while many pedestrians watched a beautiful spectacle as sparks showered to the earth. It seemed for a while, to the spectators, that the flames would sweep the length of the building on the Tenth Street side.

Every man on the top of the building dropped other duties to join his comrades in an effort to combat the flames, which at first leaped savagely into the air, with a seeming determination to clean away the woodwork. The voices of the men were scarcely audible to those who looked on many feet below, but that they were at work was seen when the huge keystone of the compressed air lamp was overturned. It was from this that the fire caught.

Soon after the last spark was out, the fire came down the hoisting machine, and his only explanation was that the high wind fanned the lamp against the wood. The blaze originated near the top of the shaft. He returned soon to rejoin his forces, and for the remainder of the night the work went on in the glare of many red and white hand lanterns. The workmen were engaged in tearing away the east wall, and the debris was carried across the roof to the shaft on the Tenth Street side.

First Check in Work. It was the first time on a weekday that the operations have stopped since they began, several weeks ago. The laborers were busy about other things, when John Stocks, colored, who was working on the ground, spied the blaze and made the outcry. It was several minutes before he attempted to call the attention of the men on the point of sending a man up the shaft to give the warning, when activity on the top of the mine showed that the workmen knew of their danger.

It was explained last night that compressed air and kerosene are much used in the mine.

Men Kicked Burning Embers to Street and So Prevented Serious Damage to Scaffold.

Blaze on Top of American National Bank Building Spectacular to a Degree.

Cut off from any outside help and in danger of being left to spend the night nine stories above the pavement, laborers at foot of the American National Bank building last night battled for fully half an hour with flames that threatened, in the face of a stiff breeze, to sweep away the temporary scaffolds and wooden shafts built for hoisting material. Working like beavers, and moving along the walls of the skyscraper like apes, the men succeeded in extinguishing the fire, but not until a large hole had been burned in the flooring.

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Blaze on Top of American National Bank Building Spectacular to a Degree.

Cut off from any outside help and in danger of being left to spend the night nine stories above the pavement, laborers at foot of the American National Bank building last night battled for fully half an hour with flames that threatened, in the face of a stiff breeze, to sweep away the temporary scaffolds and wooden shafts built for hoisting material. Working like beavers, and moving along the walls of the skyscraper like apes, the men succeeded in extinguishing the fire, but not until a large hole had been burned in the flooring.

Absolutely helpless as far as any water supply was concerned, the workmen used their hands and heels in digging away the burning beams, while many pedestrians watched a beautiful spectacle as sparks showered to the earth. It seemed for a while, to the spectators, that the flames would sweep the length of the building on the Tenth Street side.

Every man on the top of the building dropped other duties to join his comrades in an effort to combat the flames, which at first leaped savagely into the air, with a seeming determination to clean away the woodwork. The voices of the men were scarcely audible to those who looked on many feet below, but that they were at work was seen when the huge keystone of the compressed air lamp was overturned. It was from this that the fire caught.

Soon after the last spark was out, the fire came down the hoisting machine, and his only explanation was that the high wind fanned the lamp against the wood. The blaze originated near the top of the shaft. He returned soon to rejoin his forces, and for the remainder of the night the work went on in the glare of many red and white hand lanterns. The workmen were engaged in tearing away the east wall, and the debris was carried across the roof to the shaft on the Tenth Street side.

First Check in Work. It was the first time on a weekday that the operations have stopped since they began, several weeks ago. The laborers were busy about other things, when John Stocks, colored, who was working on the ground, spied the blaze and made the outcry. It was several minutes before he attempted to call the attention of the men on the point of sending a man up the shaft to give the warning, when activity on the top of the mine showed that the workmen knew of their danger.